

Spring 2010

# CMST Connect, Vol. 2, No. 2 Spring/Summer 2010

St. Cloud State University

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# CMST

# Connect

Volume 2, No. 2 • Spring/Summer 2010

*"Life has more meaning when we have several connections with our own past, our family's past, our nation's past, and the whole world's past. Now-a-days we tear down too many buildings, tear apart too many families, turn our back on too many traditions"* (Dick Lueben, Riverview 'demonstration school' student, 1933-1943).

On April 30, the halls of Riverview resounded with the voices, laughter, and stories of nearly 300 persons who had attended the Riverview Open House: "Reflections of the Past, Visions of the Future." President Potter introduced the university-sponsored event with opening comments and a ribbon cutting. Lab school/model/demonstration school alumni from the mid '20's through the mid '50's, and Riverview residents from the transition period of the '50's-'60's, joined the university

and community in celebrating not only the renovation of this historic building, but more importantly their own 'connections' to the past. The Husky Sports Band called us all forth to a delightful celebration, an 'old fashioned' ice cream social served in the 1911 Historic Classroom (replicating the early Riverview classroom), and a newly created DVD: "Reviving Riverview: A Tour with the Architect, Ellen Luken."



Following the Open House, Speech/Communication Studies Alumni, Emeriti, faculty and students gathered for an Alumni Celebration and Student Awards Banquet. The event featured comments from alumnus and COFAH Alumni Leadership Award winner David Dorsey and alumnus, Emeritus Speech Communication faculty and past chairperson, Art Grachek. Student performances, awards, and scholarships graced the evening. I hope it will be the first of many events for connecting with the Speech Communication/Communication Studies alumni.

This issue of **CMST Connect** features pictures from the day's events. Do you see anyone you recognize in the crowd?

You will also read about alumna Judy Pearson who is currently the Associate Dean of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences and Director of Doctoral Studies in Communication at North Dakota State University. Recent graduate Allison Hinzman and Emeriti faculty Chuck Vick and Glenn Stocker bring us up-to-date with what has been happening since they left SCSU. And we have an opportunity to become

better acquainted with featured professor Paula Tompkins. In addition to spotlighting our student organizations, this issue highlights several of the historic aspects of the development of CMST at SCSU.

Having taken up residence in the historic building of Riverview, which in some ways also serves as a museum and a monument, has been an interesting journey for me. As Dick Leuben says in the opening quote, I have discovered new connections—connections to the history of this university, to the evolution of a building, to the development of the CMST department. But most importantly, I have made connections through personal stories. No camera can capture the delight in the faces and the magic in the voices of the persons who called Riverview 'home' over the nearly 100 years of Riverview's existence as they tell their stories and recall their experiences in these hallowed halls. I feel privileged to have become a part of this tradition.

It is this type of connection that we honor as we reach out to you as our Communication Studies/ Speech Communication alumni, students, and friends. As Dick noted: "Life has more meaning when we have several connections with our own past." Your continuing support of the CMST department and students is one such appreciated and celebrated connection.

- Roseanna Gaye Ross, Ph.D.

Professor, Department Chair  
Department of Communication Studies



# CMST

## Connect

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# Featured Organization: *Players*

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By MaryEllen Columbus

A co-curricular student organization in the Communication Studies Department, Players Performance Group, provides students the opportunity to produce and perform original theatrical pieces that are inspired by their own voices, views and artistic expressions. Staging, scripting, and performing are a part of the collaborative process among the students in Players. Every semester students come together to create powerful performances and get the chance to challenge and strengthen their improvisational, theatrical, writing and analytical skills throughout a process that is guided by professors who are skilled and knowledgeable in performance studies.

For 30 years this student organization has been tackling difficult social issues by examining communication behaviors and creating performances that entertain, educate and bring awareness to their audiences. Players weaves together current facts, stories, literature and critical thinking that directly tie their audience to the complex social issue. Performances engage audiences and reflect communication trends within society.

Past performances have looked at issues of racism, patriotism during 9/11, homophobia, culture and masculinity, bone marrow transplants, HIV/AIDS and difficult issues high school students deal with like depression, sexual orientation, isolation and sexual assault.

This semester Players produced two performances. *Cyber Communication: Stalking Revisited* showed the fine line between accidental stalking and unhealthy online obsessions by revealing the dark side of cyber stalking, harassment and bullying. *Through the Earlobe* explored how tattoos, piercings, and scars and other body modifications have become a common occurrence in society and invited audience members to open their mind about their own body perceptions. After every performance Players gives the audience a chance



The Players members meet with advisor Chris Collins to talk about upcoming performances.

to participate in question and answer sessions.

The thirty to forty-five minute presentations, intended for mature audiences, seek to challenge and inspire audiences to broaden their perspective on modern issues in society. Students, faculty members and community members are always invited and the performances are free.

Players does many on-campus performances and in previous years has traveled to national performance festivals to share their productions with other universities. Players has also hosted The Northern Plains Performance Conference, which was held at SCSU for four years. This conference featured interactive workshops and theatrical performances that explore issues of race, gender, religion, culture and immigrant issues.

Players Performance group has received national acclaim for their work and continues to grow and offer students a creative way to get involved within the Communication Studies Department. Students from different majors and different theatrical backgrounds are welcomed. No experience is required to become a part of the group.



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# Featured Alumni

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## Q & A with Judy Pearson

By Melissa Croteau

Judy Pearson, one of many accomplished St. Cloud State alums, graduated in 1968, with a degree in Speech Communication. Pearson is currently a Professor of Communication at North Dakota State University where she is the Associate Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the Director of Doctoral Studies in Communication. After graduating from St. Cloud State, Pearson went on to graduate with a Masters in Rhetoric and Public Address from Indiana University. She continued at Indiana University in obtaining a Doctorate level degree in Speech Communication and the History and Philosophy of Education.



Pearson has taught communication courses on all levels throughout colleges and universities in the Midwest. She has written 34 books, 80 professional articles, and has presented over 300 professional papers. In 1988, she was elected to serve as president of the National Communication Association (NCA) through 1989. Her areas of interest are in interpersonal communication, family communication, instructional communication, and new technologies. She has taught at North Dakota State University since 2000.

### **Q: What are you currently working on?**

A: Right now I am working on a number of articles and two books. I keep a fairly active research schedule; for example, last year I had eight publications. I primarily write and conduct research on issues in instructional communication and on marital and family communication. A line of research that I began with Carol Bruess at Ohio University has been a continued interest. We have now developed two instruments to measure rituals in dating relationships and in committed relationships.

### **Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?**

A: Being elected to serve as president of NCA, because it is a nation-wide organization of 8,000 members and is the largest of its kind dedicated to communication. I felt that I helped shape the organization, and thus the discipline, in this role. In addition, the networking opportunities continue to develop from that time.

### **Q: Are there any specific communication concepts or theories you find yourself using most?**

A: Yes, relationships and the study of families are all different. I use the social constructivism theory a lot in my teaching and research. As we write about couples' idioms, couples' story telling, and rituals, we gain insight with social constructivism. Symbolic interactionism, which is a related theory, is similarly useful.

### **Q: What suggestions do you give students who are interested in choosing a communication career?**

A: In order to stand out, a student should develop good work habits. In other words, just showing up is essential. Communication students need to understand the practical, as well as the theoretical, dimensions of communication. Basic communication skills including public speaking, communicating in a small group, and communicating with friends and family are all important.

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**Q: What advice can you give to those interested in pursuing teaching at the college level?**

A: Try teaching! Don't assume that you know what teaching is all about. It is important to think about what level you want to teach and that depends on where you will go. Find your niche and what kind of students you like to teach. It isn't as easy as it appears to be. Most people watch their professors and think, "I could do this," but it's a challenging profession and it is a lot of work. So serving as an intern or a teaching assistant might be a good first step.

In addition, I would strongly encourage understanding the students you teach. We do not teach subjects, we teach people.

**Q: What is the most important lesson you took away from St. Cloud State?**

A: That you can honestly do and become almost anything you want to be. There was one Speech Communication professor who continued challenging me and encouraging me to pursue going forward with my education and to get a Masters degree. Another professor I had in the theatre area of the communication department encouraged me to drop my student teaching and preparation to become a high school teacher and to instead get a doctoral degree and teach at the college level. Since I was the first person in my family to even go to college, these seemed like lofty goals and distant dreams.

Because of encouragement from people like these, I have been able to accomplish more than I ever dreamed. If you look over my vita and the places I have taught, you will find five land-grant universities. These institutions are known for their practical education and often boast large numbers of first-generation college students. I am attracted to such places because of my own background and what was provided to me at St. Cloud State.

In addition to my academic work, I was involved in many extra-curricular activities. One of the best experiences I had was to serve as a student senator. Remember this was a period of radical changes that occurred on college campuses. As a senator, I had the opportunity of traveling to the University of Maryland for a National Student Association meeting with students from across the country. We were invited to Washington, DC, to meet with several U. S. Senators and Representatives and this trip was very inspiring.

**Q: What is your favorite memory of St. Cloud State?**

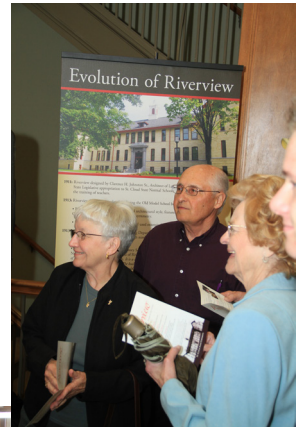
A: There are a number that come to mind. However, first impressions are often lasting impressions. I remember going to campus to register during the summer before my first year. Since I came from a tiny town of 500 people, I was amazed at the size of the city, the university, and the large number of people all scrambling to register. The experience was truly exhilarating. By contrast, I had grown up on Lake Mille Lacs so the sight of the Mississippi River was familiar and comforting. The campus at that time, and today, is inspiring and beautiful.

**Q: Do you have anything else you would like to share?**

A: The life of a teacher (including professors) is really measured by the strength of their students. I have advised dozens of doctoral and masters students and they are now successful professionals and professors across the country. Most important, you will find one or two of them on the SCSU campus right now. I am very proud of the work that my students have done and even more pleased with the relationships that we have maintained.



# Riverview





# Alumni Event







## *Faculty: Where Are They Now?* *Charles Vick, Professor Emeritus*

**By Ashley Beattie**

Professor Charles Vick was a Communication Studies Department professor at SCSU from 1971 to 1996 and served as Chair of the department from 1987 to 1990. Although he is retired, Vick has kept just as busy as CMST alumni and students.

Vick along with his wife Carol have traveled extensively, both locally and internationally. His most memorable trip thus far is to China. In China Vick and his wife taught at Binhai College for almost a month and later enjoyed China by taking tours during their last two weeks.

Aside from sharing his knowledge around the world by traveling, Vick stays busy with writing and self publishing his own novel. Vick and his wife also stay involved locally. Vick and his wife are members not only of the Husky football and basketball booster clubs, but also active in the

St. Cloud Area Retired Teachers Association as well as work with the Stearns County History Museum.

With over 25 years of teaching experience, there are bound to be a few memories. "The thing I miss the most is the association with students - so many of them became friends." Vick said.

Countless courses were taught by Professor Vick in his career here at SCSU and he enjoyed all of them but his favorite course taught was Interpersonal Communication.

"My greatest satisfaction was when a student in that class would come back from a weekend at home and tell me that for the first time in their life they had a real conversation with their father."

Even with retirement from SCSU completed off the checklist, Vick still misses teaching and has high hopes for the future of the Communication Studies Department. "I hope that the department continues to put students first and to treat them like the wonderful human beings they are." Vick also believes what is taught in the Communication Department is useful to students no matter what major is chosen by the students.

Vick is grateful for his time spent at SCSU and the department appreciates his years of dedication to the students.

## *Study abroad in England with CMST: Summer 2011!*

### **Why study in England?**

- Add international skills and experience to your resume
- Live and dine in a castle with other SCSU students and faculty/staff
- Continue academic studies in a safe international living and travel experience
- Travel on weekly program-sponsored field trips, including York, Edinburgh, and spend 5 days in London
- Be a guest of the small and friendly community of Alnwick, England
- Travel independently to other countries at an affordable price

### **Courses Taught By SCSU Faculty:**

CMST 211: Public Speaking

CMST 318: Argumentation & Advocacy

CMST 340: Small Group Communication

CMST 341: Communication & the Workplace

INTL 199: Intro. to British Culture (1 cr)

INTL 299: Observation & Reflection (2 cr)

**Applications are due February 1, 2011.**

For more information, see:  
<http://web.stcloudstate.edu/pstompkins>

Or contact:  
Roseanna G. Ross  
[rgross@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:rgross@stcloudstate.edu)  
Riverview 117

Paula Tompkins  
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Riverview 211A

\*Applications are available in the Center for International Studies, Lawrence Hall

## Did You Know??

In **1869**, the first course in rhetoric was offered in the Old Main Building of what was then St. Cloud State Normal School.

Riverview was designed by Clarence H. Johnson Sr., Architect of Lawrence Hall in **1911**. It was financed by a \$60,000 State Legislative appropriation to St. Cloud State Normal School.

In **1908**, the first public speaking course was offered.

Robert H. Wick served as the speech department chair from **1957 - 1962**. He went on to serve as the President of St. Cloud State from **1965 - 1971**.

In **1959**, Speech was one of the first programs to offer a B.A. degree at St. Cloud State College.

The Communication Club was formed in **1981**.

The Speech Communication Internship Program was established in **1984**.

Throughout the development of the Speech/Communication Studies program, the department has been located in **5** different buildings on campus.

In **1994**, Lambda Pi Eta, the honor society sponsored by the National Communication Association, formed a chapter at SCSU.

The Speech Communication Department was renamed The Communication Studies Department in **2002**.

In **2009**, a newly renovated Riverview was declared the official location of the Communication Studies Department of SCSU.

## Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Allison Hinzman, SCSU Graduate 2007



Allison Hinzman graduated with a CMST degree in June of 2007 and began her career immediately after graduation with the Department of Veterans Affairs. She currently works as a Veterans Service Representative at the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in Minneapolis. Hinzman was recently selected, out of 55 employee applicants, to be one of nine participants for a leadership program at the VA. Here, she will have the opportunity to explore other departments of the VA, other than the one she currently works in: pension/compensation. This program will prepare her for a management role with the organization.

She met her fiancé at the VA (pictured above) and they plan to wed in October of 2010.

Hinzman says, "My education and leadership position as president of the Communication Studies Club during my time at SCSU really helped me learn skills needed in order to be successful in my career."

## Internship Program

The Communication Studies Department boasts a nationally recognized internship program. We would be excited to place our interns with your organization. If you have an internship opportunity with your organization or are interested in creating one, please contact Paula Tompkins, our internship coordinator for 2009-2012. You can reach her at [pstompkins@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:pstompkins@stcloudstate.edu)





# *Spotlight*

## *Communication Studies Club*

This semester Comm Club has been busy working with the department in the planning for the Riverview celebration and the departmental banquet. Members have worked on banquet preparations, including developing a program, finding entertainment for during the dinner, and planning decorations. They have also generously agreed to act as greeters and social hosts for the Riverview celebration efforts. While the effort they have given to these end of the year activities has occupied most of their time, they also participated in a Relay for Life activity on campus and a spring clean-up activity in the local community.

## *Forensics*

It was another great season for the SCSU Talking Huskies! Members of the speech and debate team traveled over 10,000 miles to 20+ tournaments. Team members advanced to the final round at every tournament. As a result of their hard work throughout the year, SCSU Forensics (Speech & Debate) had one of their best showings in decades at the 2010 Pi Kappa Delta National Speech & Debate Tournament, finishing 11th at the prestigious contest! In addition to tournament competition, the squad performed for several classes as well as hosting two public showcases, twenty star performances, a college tournament, and their first high school speech camp!

## *Lambda Pi Eta*

Lambda Pi Eta has had a successful recruiting year and has inducted 19 new members during the 2009-2010 school year. Additionally, Lambda Pi Eta and the Communication Studies Club co-sponsored a Graduate School Discussion Session on March 30th. Twelve students attended the discussion and six faculty members were on hand to answer questions. Students reported that the session was very helpful as they contemplated graduate school. Future graduate school discussion sessions are being planned for early in the fall of each school year to help facilitate graduate school submission timelines.

## *Players Performance Group*

Players Performance Group is a “public forum for contemporary social and cultural issues.” Members are provided a space to explore “intellectual and educational growth” by cultivating a critical engagement with various social problems. Players addresses such problems through aesthetic means and a commitment to dialogic communication between self, other, and society. In an attempt to explore the cultural and sociological implications of altering the body in the Western World, Players Performance Group presented “Through the Earlobe,” in April, an investigative piece about the various ways individuals are marked bodily. Students, through their own narrative construction, explored areas such as Tattoos, Piercings, and Scars in an attempt to deepen their relationship to the larger social phenomenon of body alteration.

## *Conflict Resolution Services for Students*

The Student Conflict Resolution Team (SCRT) officially became Conflict Resolution Services for Students this Spring. With the help of our graduate assistant, Sujita Gyawaly, CRS spent this year assessing student needs regarding conflict and exploring opportunities to promote our services on campus. In addition, the team created a Mock Mediation video that can be used to demonstrate the process of mediation during workshops. Next year they plan to create a website that will provide advice for students on how to manage their conflicts. They also plan to develop workshops to meet the needs identified through the assessment.

# Paula Tompkins

By Danielle Pierce

Paula's career path began in 1979 as a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. Since teaching at SCSU, Tompkins has taught a variety of courses, both domestic and overseas, and also directs the Communication Studies Internship Program. She loves when students get excited about what they are learning and when they recognize the internal and external connections between research and theory and can apply that to what they're learning in the classroom. "It's this light bulb moment that draws us (teachers) to the profession."

Tompkins acknowledges that she does not have a favorite course she likes to teach, but has enjoyed teaching everything from communication theory, to ethics, public speaking and organizational communication. Ethics, however, has been pushed to the forefront, with her debut publication this January by Allyn and Bacon, *Practicing Communication Ethics: Development, Discernment and Decision-making*. "A long, intensive process Paula says the development of the book is, "the difference between what I like about teaching and what I like about communication." She notes that the word 'ethics' and other jargon such as, 'research methods,' 'abstract' and 'theory' tends to turn people away. Her goal is for students to realize that it is not simply "the highly educated" that

carry out such methods.

In researching and writing, the luxury for her is choosing certain interests and asking questions. Paula enjoys investigating ethics and the impact of our actions. Particularly, how actions follow relationships, how we are connected to others and what constitutes our world and moral imagination. Issues concerning justice, civility and integrity are special areas of interest to her. Paula noted, "Part of being ethical is being responsive to other people." She faulted cynicism as the harbinger of people closing themselves off to others. "There is lots and lots of cynicism. When we become cynical, that is when we stop being ethical. Cynicism is not the same as skepticism."

The Communication Studies Department has developed a nationally recognized internship program. As the third director since its implementation by Communication Studies Department Chair, Roseanna Ross, Paula said its acclaimed status and organized structure makes being director easy. The internship program offers capstone experiences and helps tie together what students are learning in their courses and the outside world.

Outside the academic realm, Paula has an affinity for all things science-fiction. Sheri Tepper's, *Grass* and *The Family Tree* top her list of favorite novels; what she describes as "eco-feminism" works. She can correctly answer any inquiry concerning Star Trek. In addition, she enjoys cooking and gardening. Most recently she has been experimenting with sourdough bread. Just as she doesn't have a favorite course, she doesn't have a favorite meal to cook either and pulls together whatever is on hand, "Mom's experiments" (as her kids refer to them).

Concluding the interview I ask Professor Tompkins to finish this sentence for me, "If I wasn't a professor, I would..." She smiles and laughs and states, "This *is* my ideal job."





# Faculty: Where Are They Now?

## Glenn Stocker, Professor Emeritus

By Melissa Croteau

Glenn Stocker began teaching at the university level in 1963 at the age of 22, at the University of North Dakota as a graduate assistant where he studied speech communication and theater. Following UND and his MA in speech and theater, he taught and coached forensics for four years at Mayville State in North Dakota. He then attended Wayne State University in Detroit for two years, working on his Ph.D. and teaching as a graduate assistant, before returning to Mayville State for eight more years to teach and coach again.

Glenn left Mayville State in 1978 to begin work in rhetoric and public address at St. Cloud State University, where he remained until retiring in 2003. Overall, Glenn taught at the university level for approximately forty years total.

As part of his work at SCSU, his family lived and worked in Akita, Japan, teaching in the Akita University-SCSU exchange program from 1981-1983, and 1997-2000, along with a sabbatical leave in Akita, 1985-1986.

While at SCSU a couple of his favorite classes to teach included: Contemporary Political Communication and Speech Writing. "I still miss being able to interact with students and colleagues in the department. Being around young



people does tend to keep a person young, at least in point of view, if not in body, so I do miss that very much, along with the congeniality of the faculty and staff members in the department," he said.

Partly as a result of taking a family with five teenagers to live in Asia, Glenn and his wife now have two of their sons married, living, and working in Japan, and another son married, working, and living in Taiwan. Their two daughters continue to live in Maple Grove, MN, so they have some grandchildren and great-grandchildren nearby. Next summer, Glenn and his wife plan to visit their son, Jay, and his family in the Nagasaki area of Japan. They plan to visit their other son, Jeff and his family in Akita, Japan. This will give them an opportunity to see their many friends they still have that live in various areas of Japan.

Glenn and his wife, Marlys, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. He wishes the department well and says, "The curriculum gets more interesting all the time and the students are being well-served as the department moves forward."

### A Special Visitor: Eleanor Roosevelt



This photo of Eleanor Roosevelt was taken in 1941 during her visit to Riverview. Although you cannot see the building, it is Riverview, according to the Stearns County History Museum. During her stay, Eleanor resided at the Whitney House, hosted by Alice Whitney. Alice Whitney's grandchildren were attending Riverview at the time.

*photo courtesy of: Stearns County History Museum*

## Congratulations!

The Communication Studies Department would like to congratulate Maggie Mapes on being selected as a speaker for the spring commencement ceremony, to take place Saturday, May 8.

Mapes, a graduating senior from the CMST Department plans to attend grad school in the fall at Southern Illinois University.

She is originally from LeMars, IA, where she participated in high school policy debate and was on the speech team. One of her accomplishments as a high school student was being named a Top 10 Speaker at the Tournament of Champions, a national speech tournament for high school students. Mapes competed 2 years on the Missouri State University policy debate team before transferring to St. Cloud State.

Congratulations, Maggie on all of your accomplishments and this tremendous honor!

*CMST Department Mission and Goals:*

*Goal:* To extend the knowledge, appreciation and skills that contribute to the full understanding and practice of effective communication in careers, relationships and communities.

*Mission Statement:* We are a community of scholars who participate in the creation, discovery, and dissemination of knowledge about communication. We are committed to communication as central to self and community. We demonstrate that commitment in the following ways:

1. We educate students in the theories and principles of communication so that they become competent communicators and critical thinkers.
2. We maintain a working environment within the department that respects the tensions between individual professional pursuits and departmental needs and goals.
3. We shape and respond to the needs of the campus, community, and society through exchanges of expertise and promotion of the discipline.
4. We address throughout our curriculum the need for understanding diverse ideas and cultural experiences.

## *Special Thank You To*

### *Advisory Board*

The purpose of the Advisory is to advise the department on matters of curriculum, programs, community service, student recruitment, intern and graduate placement.

**Bassey Eyo** - CMST Faculty/Career Advisor

**Katie Harms** - CMST Alumni

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Granite Rotary

**Paula Tompkins** - CMST Faculty

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CMST Scholarship donors provide opportunities for recognition to the best of our student graduates. Your confidence in our students and your support is most appreciated!

Congratulations to this year's recipients:

**Mollie Young Marinovich Outstanding Internship Award**

Lindsay Goedecke

Natasha Ashfeld

**Mary Ahles Adams Scholarship**

Sarah Collie

**Robert and Alice Wick Scholarship**

Steven Pesavento

**Charles and Carol Vick Scholarship**

Jacqueline Alderman

**Arthur and Barb Grachek Scholarship**

Ally Burton

**Ray Pederson Scholarship**

Melissa Maxwell

**Kendall Ethics Award**

Victor Warne

The Communication Studies Department provides several opportunities for you to financially support our students and programs. For information on how you can contribute to our scholarship and alumni accounts, contact the Foundation office at (320) 308-3177 or email them at [foundation@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:foundation@stcloudstate.edu).



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